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INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 ISO-00 IO-11 EB-07 OES-03 OIC-02

SAL-01 ACDA-05 AGR-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00

CIAE-00 CIEP-01 COME-00 DLOS-04 DODE-00 DOTE-00 EPA-01

ERDA-05 FEAE-00 FMC-01 TRSE-00 H-02 INR-07 INT-05

JUSE-00 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 NSF-01 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-04

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AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY

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TAGS: EFIS, ICNAF, OCON, XN, BU, IT, GW

SUBJ: BILATERAL FISHERIES TALKS WITH ITALIANS, BULGARIANS AND
FRG AT ICNAF SPECIAL MEETING

REF: A. SOFIA 0052 (NOTAL

B. STATE 0657 (NOTAL

C. BONN 1033

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TOKYO FOR L.M. NAKATSU, DIRECTOR OES/OFA/FA

1. ITALIAN TALKS: INFORMATION DISCUSSION WERE HELD TUESDAY, 27 JANUARY, WITH SCAGLIA OF MFA, REPRESENTATIVES OF MINMERCHANT MARINE, DIRGEN FISHERIES, AND REPRESENTATIVES OF FISHING INDUSTRY. PRIMARY ISSUE WAS ENFORCEMENT OF US LAW ON CREATURES OF CONTINENTAL SHELF, ESPECIALLY LOBSTER, AND SECONDARILY A GENERAL DISCUSSION OF OCNAL MATTERS. ITALIAN CONCERNED OVER WHAT THEY SEE AS STRICT ENFORCEMENT OF US REGULATIONS WHICH EFFECTIVELY LIMIT OPERATIONS OF THEIR FISHING VESSELS TO FAIRLY SMALL AREAS OFF US EAST COAST, AND USPOKEN, BUT PERHAPS UNDERLYING CONCERN THAT THEY WERE BEING SINGLED OUT FOR STRICTER ENFORCEMENT THAN OTHERS. DEPARTMENT REPS, SULLIVAN AND SCHOWENGERDT, ACCOMPANIED BY EMB ECON OFF LAASE, EXPLAINED DETAILS OF US REGULATIONS, POINTED OUT PARTICULAR VULBERABILITY OF SQUID FISHERY TO BY-CATCH OF SHELF CREATURES, NOTED DEPRESSED CONDITION OF LOBSTER STOCKS, AND REVIEWED ENFORCEMENT ISSUES AS APPLIED TO ITALIAN VESSELS OVER PAST YEAR. AS EXPECTED, ONLY REAL CONCERN WHICH COULD NOT BE FULLY SATISFIED WAS DIFFICULTY IN APPLYING DEFINITION OF AREA OF CONCENTRATION OF SHELF CREATURES.

2. ITALIAN OBVIOUSLY WANTED AGREEMENT FROM USG THAT USCG WOULD NOT ENFORCE AREA OF CONCENTRATION RULES DUE TO ITALIAN VIEW THAT AVERAGE TRAL DISTANCE OF 18 MILES MAKE BY-CATCH OF LOBSTERS EXCEEDING 8 PER TOW RATHER LIKELY EVEN WITH RANDOM DISTRIBUTION OF CREATURES OVER SEA FLOOR. DEPT OFFICERS, WHILE CONCEDING OBVIOUS DIFFICULTIES, HELD TO VIEW THAT CONDITION OF STOCKS MAKES ENFORCEMENT OF REGULATIONS A REQUIREMENT; BUT NOTED THAT PROBLEM OF MORE PRECISE DEFINITION OF AREA OF CONCENTRATION IS UNDER STUDY BY USG AND MAY ULTIMATELY PROVIDE GUIDELINES WHICH WILL BE EASIER TO EXPLAIN TO FISHERMEN AND EASIER TO ENFORCE.

3. ITALAINS HAD STUDIED US BILATERAL FISHERIES AGREEMENTS WITH USSR, POLAND AND ROMANIA AND CLEARLY WERE SUGGESTING A US/ITALIAN BILATERAL. IN THE END, BOTH SIDES AGREED TO AN INFORMAL SET OF MINUTES OF TUESDAY'S DISCUSSIONS, WHICH WOULD BE DRAWN UP BY THE ITALIANS AND FORWARDED TO US FOR COMMENTS AND CORRECTIONS AS NECESSARY, RECOGNIZING THAT THE DOOR IS ALWAYS OPEN TO DURTHER DISCUSSIONS SHOULD ADDITIONAL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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PROBLEMS ARISE. IT WAS UNDERSTOOD THAT SUCH MINUTES WOULD CONSTITUTE NOTHING MORE THAN A RECORD OF THE DISCUSSIONS. DISCUSSIONS WERE CORDIAL THROUGHOUT AND BOTH GOVERNMENT AND INDUSTRY REPS SEEMED REASONABLY SATISFIED.

4. BULGARIANS: US ICNAF DEL CHAIRMAN WALLACE AND DEPT OFF SULLIVAN HELD INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS WITH NEDEV AND BULGARIA'S AMB TO ITALY. BULGARIANS, WHO ARE ALSO FAMILIAR WITH US FISHERIES BILATERALS WITH OTHER COUNTRIES, APPARENTLY FELT A US/BULGARIAN AGREEMENT MIGHT GAIN THEM SOME PREFERRED

STATUS UNDER EXTENDED JURISDICTION. WALLACE AND SULLIVAN RULED OUT SUCH AN AGREEMENT AT PRESENT, NOTING THAT IT WOULD NOT REPEAT NOT IMPLY ANY PREFERRED FUTURE STATUS. DISCUSSIONS COVERED BROAD RANGE OF FISHERIES AND ICNAF ISSUES, WERE CORDIAL THROUGHOUT AND CONCLUDED TO APPARENT SATISFACTION OF BOTH SIDES. INTERESTINGLY, NEDEV, AFTER US EXPLANATION OF BRAZIL-US BILATERAL, AGREED IT WAS REASONABLE THAT COASTAL STATE BE PAID FOR ENFORCEMENT.

5. FRG: ALTHOUGH REFTEL (C) MENTIONS ONLY NORTHWEST ATLANTIC, INFORMAL DISCUSSION WITH DR. D. BOOS CENTERED ALMOST EXCLUSIVELY ON FRG DESIRE TO ENTER HAKE FISHERY OFF PACIFIC COAST OF US. DEPT AND COMMERCE OFFICERS NOTED THAT HAKE RESOURCE IS GREATLY OVERFISHED ALREADY, RECOMMENDED THAT FRG NOT ENTER THE FISHING ALTHOUGH FREE TO DO SO, AND CONFIRMED THAT ALTHOUGH FRG FISHING VESSELS ARE PERMITTED TO CALL AT US WEST COAST PORTS WE WOULD NOT RECOMMEND DOING SO IN CURRENT DOMESTIC FISHERIES POLITICAL CLIMATE. DR. BOOS NOTED THAT FRG HAS BEEN RESTRAINING ITSELF, AS IN ICNAF HERRING QUOTAS, AND HAS NOT PREVIOUSLY ENTERED HAKE FISHERY, BUT SEES NEWCOMERS TO ICNAD LIKE CUBA? BULGARIA, AND ITALY ENTERING NEW FISHERIES AND REAPING BENEFITS OF FRG'S RESTRAINT. HE, THEREFORE, IS BECOMING INCLINED TO GO AHEAD AND ENTER PACIFIC HAKE FISHERY. DEPT OFFICERS AGAIN RECOMMENDED AGAINST SUCH ENTRY AND AGREED TO EXPLORE POSSIBILITY OF FINDING A WAY TO RECOGNIZE FRG RESTRAINT IN NOT ENTERING HAKE FISHERY, INCLUDING POSSIBILITY OF A COMMITMENT THAT THIS RESTRAINT WOULD RECEIVE FAVORABLE CONSIDERATION IN THE FUTURE.VOLPE

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